

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Apr. 28 – May 2, 2008

Budget Update –

The budget ([H.4800](#) and [H.4801](#)) remains in the House awaiting further action. Past CHE summary reports on the House and Senate recommendations for higher education are at [Week of April 7 – April 11](#) for Senate recommendations and at [Week of March 10 – March 14](#) for the House recommendations.

As a reminder in regard to the process, the House now has an opportunity to concur with the Senate recommendations or amend the recommendations prior to returning the budget to the Senate. If the House recommendations differ from those of the Senate, a conference committee will be named. Three members from each chamber including the respective finance committee chairs will be appointed to serve on the budget conference committee which will work out the differences between the two versions of the budget. Once the conference committee has done so and the General Assembly has agreed to the budget, it goes to the Governor who will have the opportunity to veto items. The General Assembly will consider any vetoes before the budget is finalized.

In the House –

[H.4766](#) relating to requirements of state agencies and energy conservation plans was amended and by the end of the week was sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Agriculture and National Resources Committee. One amendment to H.4766 related to higher education facilities and, for higher education institutions, would make the provisions applicable to only those facilities that are greater than ten thousand gross square feet and would exempt higher education facilities whose function is defined as athletics or research. A similar bill, [S.1140](#), was sent to the House from the Senate during the week. S.1140 awaits consideration of the House Ways and Means Committee. It too includes the exemption for athletics and research facilities, but additionally includes an exemption for housing facilities.

The House received several other bills from the Senate including: [S.950](#) relating to Denmark Technical College and authority to enter into ground lease agreements with private entities was received by the House, [S.1224](#) to establish authority for athletic revenue bonds for Francis Marion, and [S.1232](#) relating to local sales and use tax for education capital improvements. Both bills were referred to the House Ways and Means Committee for consideration. S.1232 is similar to H.4883 which was approved by the House last week and now awaits consideration of the Senate Finance Committee. S.1224 and S.1232 were sent to House Ways and Means Committee for consideration. S.950 was placed on the House calendar without being referred to a committee.

[H.4520](#) relating to the authority and process by which USC could issue revenue bonds to provide funds for a new business school facility and renovation of the Close-Hipp building was returned to the House with amendments by the Senate. The House concurred with the Senate amendments and enrolled the bill for ratification.

For a look at upcoming House meetings, go to http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess117_2007-2008/blatmeet.htm

In the Senate –

The Senate Education Committee met on Wednesday. The Committee considered two bills relating to higher education -- [S.1115](#) relating to a residency exception for tuition and fee purposes for certain military and dependents and [H.4408](#) relating to the course eligibility requirements for science and math enhancements for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows. The committee voted to report both bills favorably to the full Senate. The Senate received the reports on these bills on Thursday. Senate Finance also met during the week. Among legislation considered were two bills relating to state spending limitations ([S.718](#) and [S.1220](#)). Both were reported favorably to the full Senate.

A bill, [S.1335](#), requiring public bodies to attempt to broadcast their meetings on their official websites was introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

For a look at upcoming Senate meetings, go to http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess117_2007-2008/gresmeet.htm

Other –

May 1 marked the crossover deadline -- legislation that had not been approved by at least one body as of the May 1 deadline will now require a two-thirds vote to be considered.

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page. The link should go to the most recent version of the bill. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCtr/Legis/HigherEd_Legis_List.xls. Detailed information on the 2008 Session of the General Assembly may be access at www.scstatehouse.net or from links included on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCtr/LegislativeSession08.htm>.